



State of New Jersey
HIGHER EDUCATION

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Contact: Alan Guenther (609) 984-2804
Barbara Pepe (609) 984-2684

**Nobel Prize Winner Returns to New Jersey Governor's School,
Addresses 85 Students, Credits His Governor's School Professor for
Inspiring Him to Enter the Field of Physics**

About 85 high school students attending New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences at Drew University had a special treat today. They received a visit from Adam Riess, a 1987 Governor's School alumnus who won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2011.

Dr. Riess brought in his Nobel Prize medal and allowed the students to pass it around while he gave an entertaining lecture on dark energy and how the universe is expanding at an accelerating pace. He told the students that, according to his calculations, the universe is about 13.4 billion years old, give or take about a half a billion years.

Dr. Riess was introduced by his mentor, Drew University Professor James Supplee, who taught Dr. Riess at the Governor's School in 1987. Riess, who is a senior member at the Space Telescope Science Institute at Johns Hopkins University, thanked Dr. Supplee for introducing him to physics. He said that another Governor's School alumnus, Rutgers Professor Saurabh Jha, was a graduate student on the Nobel Prize-winning team.

Started by former Governor Tom Kean in 1983, The Governor's School is administered by the office of New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks. About 160 of the best students from around the state attend intensive month-long residential summer programs in engineering and science at Rutgers and Drew universities each year.

(Pronunciation notes: Adam Riess pronounces his name REESE. Saurabh Jha's name is pronounced SORE-ROB Jah.)